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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 KATHMANDU 001143

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STATE ALSO PLEASE PASS PEACE CORPS HQ  
USAID FOR ANE/AA GORDON WEST AND JIM BEVER  
MANILA FOR USAID/DCHA/OFDA  
LONDON FOR POL/GURNEY  
TREASURY FOR GENERAL COUNSEL/DAUFHAUSER AND DAS JZARATE  
TREASURY ALSO FOR OFAC/RNEWCOMB AND TASK FORCE ON TERRORIST  
FINANCING  
JUSTICE FOR OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL/DLAUFMAN  
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SUBJECT: UPDATE ON NEPAL'S MAOIST INSURGENCY, JUNE 14-20

REFERENCE: KATHMANDU 0945

SUMMARY

1. Maoists reportedly attacked a convoy headed to the far-western district of Jajarkot to provide humanitarian assistance. In a meeting held this week, international aid agencies reported increased Maoist activities that were threatening aid projects. Kamal Thapa, Minister of Information and Communications and newly appointed member of the government's peace negotiating team, said the next round of talks would be held soon, but offered no timeframe. Senior-level Maoists reportedly are getting frustrated with the delay in negotiating the third round of peace negotiations, accusing both the Government of Nepal (GON) and the USG for the delay. Maoist negotiating team members also have accused the GON of preparing to resume hostilities with USG encouragement. Insurgents abducted nine civilians this week, allegedly torturing several of them during captivity, and beat up several other civilians after stealing grain and other goods from them. The All Nepal National Independent Students' Union-Revolutionary (ANNISU-R), the Maoist affiliated student organization, reportedly is forcing young students to join its organization. The Royal Nepal Army (RNA) continues its "Hearts and Minds" campaign (Reftel). Seventeen more Maoists were released from detention. End summary.

MAOISTS ATTACK RNA HUMANITARIAN CONVOY

2. A convoy of Royal Nepal Army (RNA) soldiers, police and civilians came under Maoist attack on June 18. According to press reports, the convoy was fired on by a group of three hundred Maoists as it headed toward the far western district of Jajarkot as part of the RNA's ongoing humanitarian assistance efforts (Reftel). According to an army spokesman, the army returned fire and the confrontation lasted over three hours. (Note: In the past, Maoists have made attempts to disrupt health camps throughout different districts, including issuing threats and orders against villagers not to attend the camps, and cutting off water supplies in the areas where the camps were being held. End note). In a statement released on June 19, the Ministry of Defense strongly condemned the attack, and suggested it would have adverse effects on the peace process. There has been no comment from the Maoists on the attack. The humanitarian team said it will continue with the medical camp as planned.

MAOIST ACTIIVITIES INCREASING

3. In a meeting held this week, international aid agencies presented alarming information on Maoist activity throughout Nepal despite the ceasefire. Extortion campaigns have increased substantially, particularly during the past month, and have disrupted some development projects and threaten to halt others altogether. Maoists reportedly also have threatened to stop all foreign development projects if peace talks fail, and have already prevented foreigners from entering into one eastern district.

4. The international agencies also presented information suggesting that Maoists have made it known that they oppose employment projects because they interfere with Maoist recruitment efforts.  
THIRD ROUND OF TALKS TO BE HELD "SOON"

5. Kamal Thapa, Minister of Information and Communications and newly appointed member of the government's peace negotiating team, said on June 14 that the Government of

Nepal (GON) would hold the next round of talks "very soon," but provided no specific timeframe. Minister Thapa said he was studying the agreements reached during the last two rounds, and would sit for talks only after enough homework had been done.

#### MAOIST TEAM CRITICIZES DELAY IN TALKS; BLAMES U.S.

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16. Senior-level Maoists reportedly are getting frustrated with the delay in setting a date for the third round of peace negotiations. On June 17 Krishna Bahadur Mahara, spokesman and member of the Maoist negotiating team, accused the GON of delaying the peace talks under the pretext that it needed time to study previous agreements. Mahara claimed the GON was "compelling the Maoists to go back to armed struggle." Mahara alleged the U.S. was responsible for the delay in peace talks, but offered no further explanation. However, the Maoist spokesman declared that the peace talks would fail if the USG did not support them.

17. On June 14 Ram Bahadur Thapa, alias Badal, also a member of the Maoist talk team, reportedly told a public gathering in Sindhuli District that the GON was planning to announce the collapse of the peace talks. Badal accused the GON of conspiring to get rid of the political parties and the Maoists. Matrika Prasad Yadav, a politburo member of the Maoists, addressing a public rally in Bara District in the Terai on June 14, concurred that by delaying the peace process the GON was inviting war.

#### MAOISTS CLAIM GON MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR WAR

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18. Maoist rhetoric of late is accusing the GON of preparing to recommence hostilities. Senior Maoists have lambasted the RNA's purchase of new weapons, helicopters and ongoing recruitment of additional personnel. On June 14 Badal, military chief of the Maoists, reportedly charged that the GON is not only buying new weapons, but is also planning to ask the USG for help to "crush the Maoists." Badal reiterated his previous accusations that preparations are underway for the GON to impose military rule.

#### INSURGENTS CONTINUE TERROR

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19. A group of thirty-five armed Maoists reportedly abducted four youths on June 17 in Sunsari District in the Terai, and held them captive for twenty-two hours. According to the abductees, they were severely beaten and tortured during their captivity. Maoist cadres abducted the four and accused them of being involved in the rape of a local woman. Five laborers in Salyan District were abducted by insurgents on June 15, and accused of digging without permission. The laborers had been repairing the roadside. A journalist working for a state-run newspaper was released on June 17 after being held captive by the Maoists for twelve days. Maoist cadres had abducted the journalist in Pokhara, charging him with extorting money fraudulently in the name of the Maoists.

110. According to the local paper, Maoists in the districts of Sindhuli and Siraha beat up several civilians and looted their grain and other goods. The estimated value of the looted goods is almost two thousand dollars, a fortune in the impoverished countryside.

#### ANNISU-R FORCING STUDENTS TO JOIN ORGANIZATION

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111. Karna Bahadur Shahi, President of National Private and Boarding Schools Association Nepal (NPABSON), told the local press on June 19 that the All Nepal National Independent Students' Union-Revolutionary (ANNISU-R), the Maoist affiliated student organization, was forcing young students to join its student group. According to Shahi, members of ANNISU-R storm into classrooms and threaten those who try to resist. Students are intimidated into providing their names and phone numbers. Shahi condemned these actions of the ANNISU-R, and castigated them for using children as political pawns.

#### RNA MAKING LIFE BETTER

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112. The Royal Nepal Army (RNA) continues its "Hearts and Minds" campaign(Reftel), providing humanitarian assistance to some of the most remote and Maoist-affected districts of Nepal. On June 7 the RNA arrived in the mid-western district of Baglung to provide medical assistance, and to distribute clothes, paper supplies and food, and even gave haircuts. Assistance was also provided in obtaining passports and citizenship papers. According to press reports, locals have welcomed the camps and declared that "life has become much better."

¶13. On June 15 the RNA also held a two-day camp in Myagdi District in mid-western Nepal. Local press accounts estimated that over fifteen thousand people received medical help and relief supplies. Farmers were given seeds for planting and agricultural training. According to the Chief District Officer (CDO), the administration office distributed citizenship papers to almost two hundred people.

DISTRICT JAIL RELEASES ALL MAOIST PRISONERS

¶14. The District Administration Office (DAO) in Kapilvastu reported on June 13 that its local jail now has no Maoist prisoners following the release of seventeen Maoists on June ¶13.

¶15. On June 11 a joint team of army and police personnel arrested seventeen Maoists in Kailali District on weapons charges. The insurgents reportedly were carrying grenades, rifles and ammunition. Police also arrested two student members of the All Nepal National Independent Students' Union-Revolutionary (ANNISU-R), the Maoist-aligned student organization, on June 14.

BOGGS